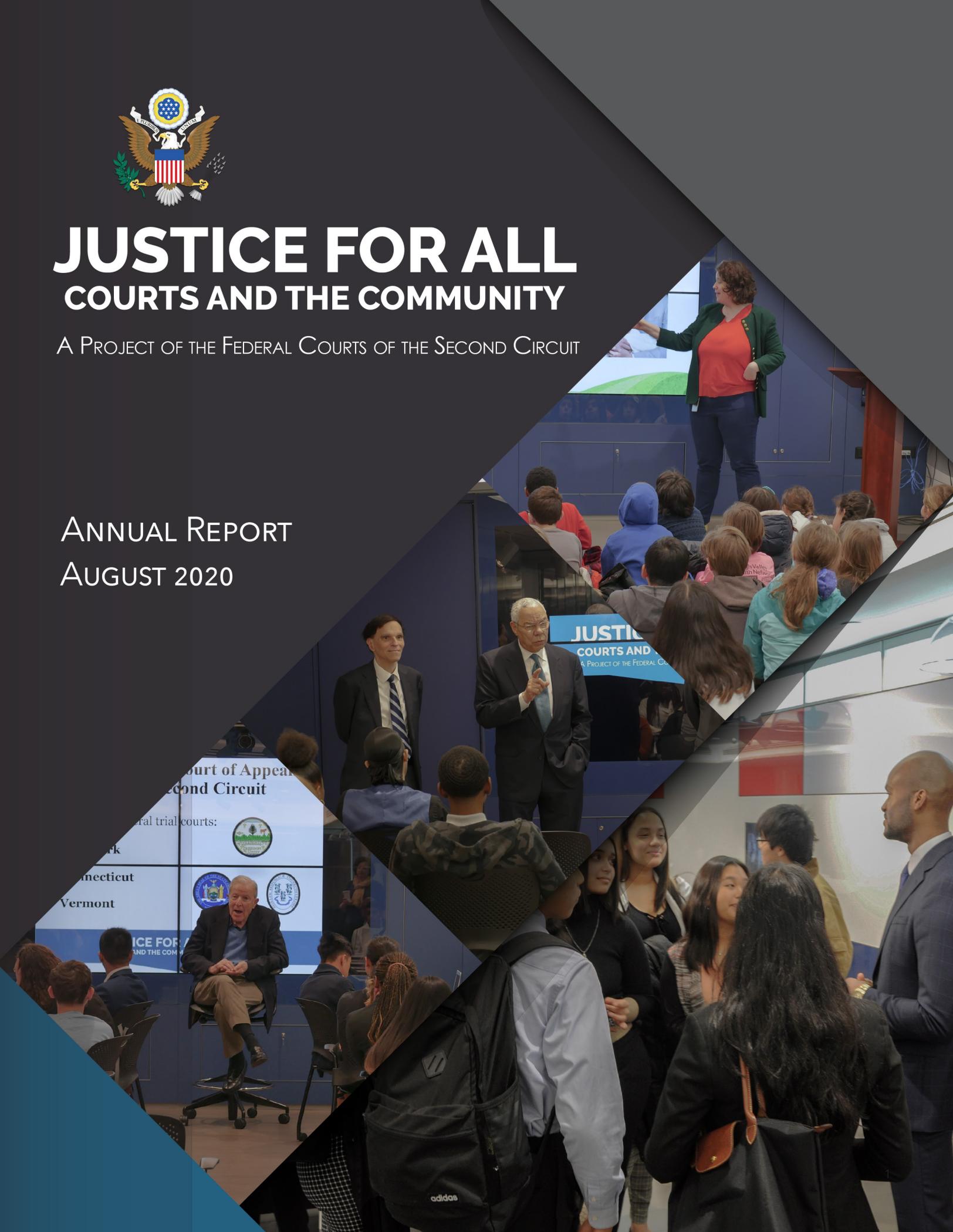




JUSTICE FOR ALL COURTS AND THE COMMUNITY

A PROJECT OF THE FEDERAL COURTS OF THE SECOND CIRCUIT

ANNUAL REPORT
AUGUST 2020



The pages that follow report on the wide-ranging activities during the preceding year of *Justice For All: Courts and the Community*, a civic education initiative of the federal courts of the Second Circuit. In 2014, I launched this circuit-wide project to increase public understanding of the role and operations of the courts and to bring courts closer to the community. Judge Victor Marrero of the Southern District of New York co-chairs the project. *Justice For All* encompasses two principal approaches: we seek to bring the communities to the courts, and the courts to the communities. In the words of the project's mission statement: "we seek to encourage, develop, and support programs in civic education for all members of the public, especially students, and to engage the community through outreach efforts."

With the active participation of judges, court staff, educators, members of the bar and community organizations, *Justice For All* encompasses a variety of programs:

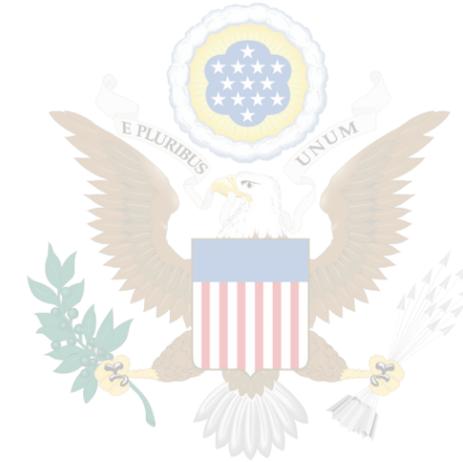
- Student and community field trips to courthouses;
- Moot courts and mock trials for students;
- Learning centers and library labs;
- Support for school curriculums about the law and justice system;
- Teachers' institutes;
- Constitution and Citizenship Day;
- Law day;
- Virtual learning experiences with remote online resources;
- Reenactments of historic cases;
- Financial literacy programs;
- Jury service; and
- A speakers' bureau: judge and lawyer visits to schools.

This annual report describes the enormous efforts that have been devoted to the project by so many people, and the impressive progress that the initiative has achieved in its activities to date. Even during the COVID-19 crisis, through distance learning, our courts continue to develop and implement thoughtful civic education programs. Judge Marrero and I are profoundly grateful to all those who have given so generously of their time to make this project such a vibrant reality. It is a great privilege to work together with such dedicated persons. We welcome the participation of those not yet involved who, on reading the report, find areas of engagement. You can always follow the activities of the project on the *Justice For All* website at www.justiceforall.ca2.uscourts.gov.



ROBERT A. KATZMANN

Chief Judge,
U.S. Court of Appeals
for the Second Circuit



Justice For All: Courts and the Community is a civic education initiative conceived and implemented by the federal courts of the Second Circuit (the federal appellate, district, and bankruptcy courts within the states of New York, Connecticut, and Vermont). To thrive, democracies need an informed citizenry. *Justice For All* strives "to increase public understanding of the role and operations of the justice system" by forging closer ties between the courts and the communities they serve.

To develop and expand *Justice For All*, the Circuit's Civic Education Committee works through nine subcommittees, whose members include judges; representatives from the offices of the circuit executive, clerks of court, probation and pretrial services, and circuit library; attorneys and educators; and professionals of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the Federal Judicial Center, and interested non-profit organizations. Many judges have substantially aided the *Justice For All* endeavor through their participation in our programs. *Justice For All* also partners with numerous civic and educational institutions

within the Circuit, including bar associations, law firms, law schools, universities, government agencies, and private non-profit organizations, most notably the Justice Resource Center (JRC). We also very much appreciate the contributions of Rebecca Fanning, National Outreach Manager for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and Russell Wheeler of the Brookings Institution and the Governance Institute.

The *Justice For All* initiative is an integrated, circuit-wide, multi-faceted, multi-purpose effort. It builds on established civic education activities, develops new programs, and provides prototypes and pilot projects that can be replicated. Its mission "encompasses two principal approaches: to bring the communities to the courts, and to bring the courts to the communities." This annual report presents the committee's activities under those two overlapping headings.

¹ JRC is a New York-based non-profit group funded by the New York City Department of Education that develops law-related curriculum and other programs for public schools and units of public education departments. <http://jrcnyc.org/>

² A grant from the Leon Levy Foundation has supported Russell Wheeler's contributions on *Justice for All: Courts and the Community*.

Throughout the year, our courts welcomed over **60,000** new citizens at more than **250** naturalization ceremonies



NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

Naturalization ceremonies are a staple in the life of every district court throughout the year. However, Constitution and Citizenship Day provides a special opportunity to reflect on the import of welcoming new citizens to our country. Constitution and Citizenship Day is observed each year on September 17 to commemorate the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, and to recognize all naturalized citizens. Each year, naturalization ceremonies are held throughout the Second Circuit in celebration of Constitution and Citizenship Day.

Photos: (clockwise from top left) - District of Connecticut Magistrate Judge Robert A. Richardson presides over the third naturalization ceremony to take place on the opening weekend of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra's Masterworks season. United States District Court Connecticut. September 30, 2019. Constitution Day naturalization ceremony held at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of N.Y. in Brooklyn. September 19, 2019. Participants at the naturalization ceremony at the Wyckoff House Museum in Brooklyn, N.Y. June 14, 2019. Photographer: Seze Devres. Northern District Chief District Judge Glenn T. Suddaby presides over a Constitution Day naturalization ceremony before the Auburn Doubledays game in Auburn, N.Y. August 15, 2019. Eastern District Magistrate Judge Vera M. Scanlon presides over a naturalization ceremony at the Wyckoff House Museum. June 14, 2019. Photographer: Seze Devres.



COURTHOUSE VISITS/ LIBRARY LABS

Thousands of students visit our courthouses each year to learn about the judiciary and our system of government. Our visitors hear not just about the rule of law, but the history of our courts, our judges, and our courthouses. Two courts of the Second Circuit date to our country's founding in 1787. Some of the most influential judges in the nation have been members of our bench. Many of our courthouses were designed by famous architects of their day. These historic buildings have housed landmark trials and groundbreaking legal disputes. Our judges, staff attorneys, probation officers, clerks of court, and professional staff provide visiting students with an overarching view of the judiciary, including how it manages so many cases, buildings, courtrooms, and people.

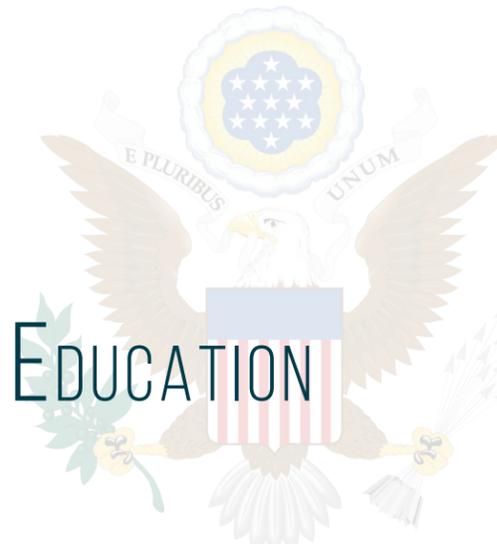
We encourage school groups and community organizations to visit our courthouses to learn firsthand about the work of the court from the judges and staff of the courts. Activities may include:

- A discussion with a judge about the role of the federal judiciary;
- A presentation about the history of the courts and the architecture of the courthouses and a courthouse tour;
- Viewing a district court case or appellate oral argument;
- A Library Lab to learn about legal research and authoritative resources.

We hosted **45** Library Labs in which high school students learned about legal research in the context of their constitutional rights.



Students from various schools visit the Justice for All: Courts and the Community Learning Center: (from left to right) - John Bowne High School, October 24, 2019. Judith S. Kaye High School October 4, 2019. New York iSchool, February 2, 2020. Greenwich High School February 11, 2020. Dalton Elementary School, January 31, 2020.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIC EDUCATION AND THE FEDERAL COURTS



Of the **138 attendees**, 89 were federal court personnel. Of the 89, **41** were **judges** and **48** were **court staff**. Delegates from each of the **13 federal circuit courts** attended. Of the 49 non-federal court personnel, **19** represented **civic education organizations**, **14** were from Second Circuit **law schools and bar associations**, **five** were personnel of **New York public schools**, and **11** were **attorneys** in private practice, most of them associated with the Second Circuit's *Justice for All: Courts and the Community* project.

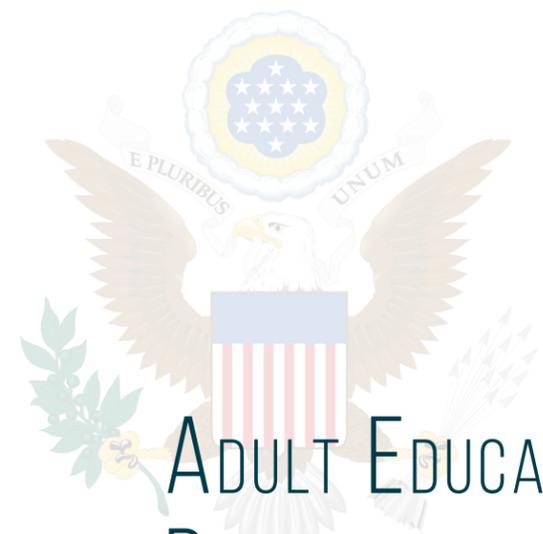
Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts Director James C. Duff convened the first National Conference on Civic Education and the Federal Courts on October 31, 2019, at the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse in New York City.

The conference's opening plenary session featured remarks by Justice Stephen Breyer, appearing by pre-recorded video, and Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Neil Gorsuch, appearing together by live stream in a dialogue hosted by Chief Judge Katzmann and Director Duff. The justices amplified the role of judges in promoting civic education. We should, said Justice Breyer, help students "understand that the courts and judges are not some distant group of people that tell everybody else what to do but rather are part of the community."

The conference format encouraged experience-based conversations among judges, court staff, and civic education organizations about designing, building, implementing, and evaluating specific types of court-based civic education programs. It also sought to make participants aware of operating programs and resources available from non-profit civic education organizations, principally those within the Annenberg Public Policy Center's Civic Renewal Network.

The "Report on the National Conference on Civic Education and the Federal Courts" and a short video about the conference are available at: <https://justiceforall.ca2.uscourts.gov/NCCE2019.html>.

Clockwise from top left: Participants in the session "Teachers' Institutes: Agendas, Curricula, and Enrollment." Photo: Matvey Zabbi. Hon. Kimberly J. Mueller, Chief Judge, Eastern District of California (left), speaking with Rebecca Fanning, National Educational Outreach Manager, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (right), in the Justice For All: Courts and the Community Learning Center. Photo: Matvey Zabbi. Second Circuit Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann speaking at the morning plenary session. Photo: New York Law Journal.



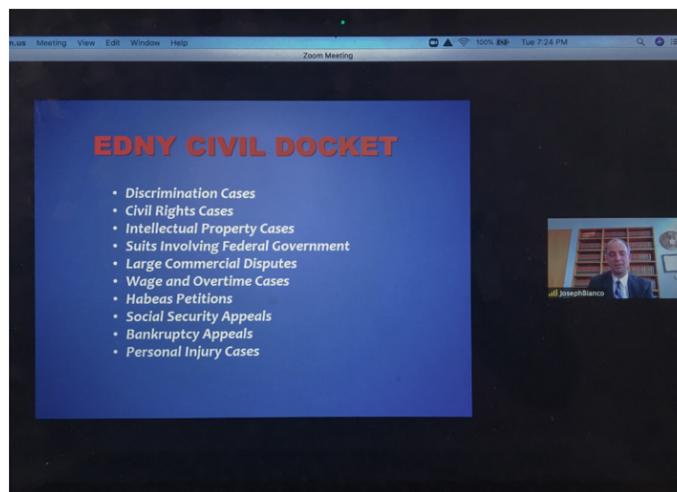
ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

VIEWS FROM THE BENCH: AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE FEDERAL COURTS

Second Circuit Judge Joseph F. Bianco discusses the selection process for federal judges, cases and issues litigated on Long Island, and the challenges facing our criminal justice system in this program that has been offered at 11 public libraries in Nassau and Suffolk Counties since June 2018.

As an offshoot of one public library program, a public library field trip to the Alfonse M. D’Amato U.S. Courthouse was coordinated through the Connetquot Public Library. The library visitors were provided a tour of the courthouse, a “behind the scenes” tour of Judge Bianco’s chambers and the holding cell located off the courtroom. The attendees also observed an Immigration and Naturalization proceeding and met with representatives from the U.S. Marshals office and the Court Reporters.

Judge Bianco also conducted his first virtual “Views from the Bench” programs for registered patrons of the Shelter Rock Public Library and the Copiague Public Library.



Photos: (from top) - Circuit Judge Joseph F. Bianco speaks at the Connetquot Public Library, November 14, 2019. Judge Bianco provides a virtual “Views from the Bench” program in conjunction with the Copiague, NY Public Library via Zoom on July 14, 2020.



FINANCIAL LITERACY

Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) was founded by now-retired Bankruptcy Judge John Ninfo of the Western District of New York. It is a national non-profit financial education outreach program with which we partner.

For several years, bankruptcy judges from within the Second Circuit, attorneys, and financial experts have joined together with CARE to educate adults about financial responsibility and improve their financial literacy. In coordination with schools and community organizations, our judges and colleagues empower financial responsibility, raise awareness of financial obligations, and teach the basics of credit. Attendees include:

- Senior citizens;
- Veterans;
- Domestic violence survivors;
- Students;
- Persons with intellectual challenges;
- Persons newly arrived in the United States.

Members of the Adult Education Subcommittee also offer Financial Literacy programs for people living in a Syracuse halfway house; and as a component to the Northern District of New York’s re-entry program. The program focuses on budget, credit, and student loan obligations.



Students from James Madison High School, the winners of the Metropolitan MENTOR moot court competition, pose with Eastern District Magistrate Judge Sanket J. Bulsara (left), Southern District Magistrate Judge Katharine H. Parker (center), and Southern District Magistrate Judge Robert W. Lehrburger (right). December 4, 2019.

Throughout the Second Circuit, there have been longstanding moot court and mock trial competitions operated through bar associations and non-profit organizations. The Student Contests and Advocacy Skills Subcommittees are expanding upon these programs.

MOOT COURTS & MOCK TRIALS

The Second Circuit, and the district courts in the Southern and Eastern District of New York, hosted semi-final and final round participants in the 35th Annual Metropolitan MENTOR moot court competition and the Long Island MENTOR moot court competition. High school participants in the competition worked with local attorney and law school student volunteers to prepare for the moot court experience. James Madison High School, the winners of the Metropolitan MENTOR competition faced William Floyd High School, the winners of the Long Island MENTOR Moot Court Competition, in the final New York MENTOR competition at the Daniel Patrick Moynihan U.S. Courthouse in December. The William Floyd High School team won, making it the first Long Island team to win in the history of the competition.



REENACTMENTS

Reenactments of historical court proceedings are an effective and popular teaching tool. The *Justice For All: Courts and the Community* website provides access to reenactment materials for eight famous cases, with scripts based on actual court transcripts, teaching materials, historic photographs and documents, and instructions for performing the reenactments. This past year, several requests for scripts were received from all around the country, including two requests from a high school in Tyler, Texas. The National Conference on Civic Education and the Federal Courts generated many requests for the Susan B. Anthony re-enactment after it was performed at the Conference.

Other highlights:

- The Asian American Bar Association of New York presented a reenactment of the Korematsu case on November 8 at the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Convention in Austin, Texas. The reenactment played to an audience of 900 at the NAPABA Convention Friday Plenary Lunch session, the largest single audience for any AABANY Trial Reenactment. Second Circuit Judge Denny Chin moderated a panel discussion about this case and its continuing relevance immediately after the session, featuring a panel that included Don Tamaki, Dale Minami, Karen Narasaki, Judge Marilyn Hall Patel, Northern District of Calif. Judge Edward M. Chen and Karen Korematsu;
- Judge Chin and Kathy Chin presented the Meredith case reenactment at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges;
- The Northern District of New York produced the Rosenberg trial reenactment in November, which was reported in the local paper with rave reviews.

Second Circuit Judge Denny Chin (right) and Kathy Chin (left) present "Open Doors to Federal Courts, Teen-Relevant Topics, Legal Skills as Life Skills, Historical Reenactments" at the National Conference on Civic Education and the Federal Courts, Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse, October 31, 2019. Photo: Matvey Zabbi.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE LEARNING CENTER'S INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

New exhibits celebrate the following month-long observances: Black History; Women's History; and LGBTQ Pride. Each exhibit features trailblazing judges from the courts of the Second Circuit and the United States Supreme Court.

The Black History Month features trailblazing Black judges from the courts of the Second Circuit: Justice Thurgood Marshall, Judge Constance Baker Motley, Judge Deborah A. Batts, and Judge Robert L. Carter.

The Women's History Month exhibit recognizes the accomplishments of the women who have served on the federal bench and highlights several current and former women judges with connections to our courts.

In commemoration of June as LGBTQ Pride Month, the *Justice for All: Courts in the Community* highlights our history-making, openly gay federal judges. On May 6, 1994, the late Deborah Batts became the first openly gay Article III federal judge in the country. After 25 years on the bench, on May 2, 2019, Judge Batts joined a conversation with three other openly gay federal judges in the Second Circuit: Southern District Judge Alison J. Nathan, Southern District Judge J. Paul Oetken, and Eastern District Judge Pamela K. Chen.

The Subcommittee on Civic Education and Speakers' Bureau works closely with schools throughout the Second Circuit to provide opportunities for students and the public to learn about the work of the courts. A pilot project, *Judiciary and the Arts*, arose from the subcommittee's interest in expanding its programs to reach students who are developing their skills to express their ideas through the arts, including visual media. The project began in spring 2019, when specially selected high school visual arts educators were invited to develop an instructional plan with their art students. They consulted with the staff of the Second Circuit library and with volunteer attorneys in preparing materials about the law for their students. The instructional plans actively engaged the students with the judiciary as a civic institution committed to the fair and effective administration of justice, honored student voices, and culminated in a visual representation of the knowledge gained by the students about the judiciary and the rule of law in the United States. The project is consistent with the pedagogical practices described in the New York City Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in Visual Arts and the New York State Standards for the Arts.

The Justice Resource Center received a grant from the Matisse Foundation to continue this project in 2020. Unfortunately, it was paused in the spring due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19. Plans are underway to soon feature the already submitted artwork on the *Justicefor All: Courts and the Community* website.



CIVIC EDUCATION DISTANCE LEARNING

Law Day, observed on May 1, is a national day to celebrate the rule of law. It provides an opportunity to understand how law and the legal process protect our liberty, strive to achieve justice, and contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share. The Law Day 2020 theme was "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100" in recognition of the constitutional amendment that guaranteed that the right to vote would not be denied or abridged on account of sex.



While past Law Day celebrations have involved visits by judges to schools and visits by students to courthouses, this year's scheduled activities were canceled in order to protect the health of all participants during the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, members of the Subcommittee on Civic Education and Speakers' Bureau, together with the Circuit Library, developed online teaching materials and resources to support distance learning. These materials can be found on the JFA website:

https://justiceforall.ca2.uscourts.gov/law_day2020.html



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[HTTP://WWW.JUSTICEFORALL.CA2.USCOURTS.GOV](http://www.justiceforall.ca2.uscourts.gov)